

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 H-03 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 SY-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN:EPDJEREJIAN:JMP

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN

NEA/GRK:GTCHURCHILL

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R 252106Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PINS, IT, SY, (BATES, JONATHAN)

SUBJ: BATES CASE

REF: ATHENS 6671

1. EMBASSY ATHENS SHOULD INFORM PROFESSOR AND MRS. BATES DEPARTMENT SHARES THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT RE COURT'S DEFERRAL OF VERDICT BUT OF COURSE PREFERS THIS TO HARSH SENTENCE OF TYPE COURT MIGHT HAVE ISSUED HAD IT BEEN OBLIGED TO ACT AT THIS TIME, WHEN AS RESULT SEPT 13 SYRIAN-ISRAELI AIR BATTLE THERE IS MUCH ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT IN SYRIA. EMBASSY SHOULD ASSURE BATES THAT DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING WHAT MIGHT BE DONE AT THIS STAGE TO HELP JONATHAN, THOUGH REALISTICALLY COURSES OF ACTION OPEN TO US ARE VERY LIMITED. WE HOPE SOON TO BE IN POSITION DISCUSS OUR THINKING ON THIS MORE IN DETAIL.

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2. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPRO-

PRIATE TO ATTEMPT TO DISCOURAGE PROFESSOR BATES VISITING BEIRUT IN OCTOBER FOR TALKS WITH CARDILLI OR GOING ON TO DAMASCUS AFTER THAT TO SEE JONATHAN, AS LONG AS THERE IS NO REAL REASON TO BELIEVE THAT VISIT BY HIM TO DAMASCUS WOULD DAMAGE JONATHAN'S CASE. PROFESSOR BATES SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH. HE IS FULLY AWARE OF DANGER TRIP POSES TO HIS HEALTH, BUT KNOWS ALSO THAT AT HIS AGE AND GIVEN HIS CONDITION THIS MAY BE HIS LAST OPPORTUNITY TO SEE HIS SON.

OUR POSITION SHOULD BE THAT, BEARING IN MIND STRAIN TRIP WILL PLACE ON HIS HEALTH, DECISION IS ENTIRELY FOR PROFESSOR AND MRS. BATES TO MAKE.

4. AT OUR LAST CONTACT, MRS. BATES WAS FULLY AWARE OF REASONS FOR HER NOT ATTEMPTING MAKE TRIP TO DAMASCUS AND WAS AGREED NOT TO TRY. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRIALS, ESPIONAGE AGENTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE190721
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DAKORN:EPDJEREJIAN:JMP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730911/aaaaaiak.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ATHENS 6671
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BATES CASE
TAGS: CASC, PINS, IT, SY, (BATES, JONATHAN)
To: ATHENS BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005